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CASE SYSTEM IN TAMIL AND MALAYALAM

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Tamil (T) and Malayalam (M), though similar in many aspects, differ from each other remarkably in some aspects. A correlative study of case systems of T and M will be helpful from the point of view of language teaching and language learning.

Nominative case :

It is the grammatical subject of a sentence. It is not overtly marked both in T and M. In T the verbs inflected for person, number, and gender agree with the person, number and gender of the noun in nominative case. Nominative case form realizes agent, instrumental, experiencer, and objective case relations in T. In M nominative case form realizes all these relations except instrumental relation; the instrumental case relation is realized by the instrumental case form only.

1. T. ña:n̲ ava n̲ai aTitte:n̲ 'I beat him'
   M. ña:n̲ ava n̲e aTiccu 'I beat him'
2. T. katti viralai veTTi viTTatu 'The knife has cut the finger'
3. T. na:n̲ ava n̲ai kaNTe:n̲ 'I saw him'
   M. ña:n̲ ava n̲e kaNTu 'I saw him'
4. T. katavu aTaintatu 'The door closed'
   M. kataku aTaññu 'The door closed'

Objective case :

In T objective case is signalled by the accusative suffix *-ai* and in M by *-e*. Both these suffixes have zero as their alternant. The following situations are noticed in T.

(1) The demonstrative pronouns, when function as the objects of transitive verbs, will be overtly marked for objective case.

5. T. na:n̲ atai kuTitte:n̲ 'I drank it'

(2) The patients of a group of transitive verbs (change of state verbs, verbs of impact, etc.) will be overtly marked for objective case.

6. T. na:n̲ pa:n̲aiyai uTaitte:n̲ 'I broke the pot'
7. T. na:n̲ na:yai aTitte:n̲ 'I beat the dog'

(3) A class of transitive verbs have their objects overtly marked for objective case for some kind of specification, emphasis, or definiteness. The

objective case will not be overtly marked while making general statements. The object modified by a relative clause, the object of a transitive verb in imperative mood, and the object which is anaphoric are overtly marked for objective case.

8. T.a. ni: pa:lai kuTi '(You) Drink milk (with more emphasis on milk)'
   b. ni: pa:l kuTitta:y 'You drank milk'

9. T.a. avaṉ ra:maṉ ezutiya pa:TTai pa:Tiṉa:ṉ 'He sang the song written by Raman'
   b. avaṉ pa:TTu pa:Tiṉa:ṉ 'He sang a song'

10. T. avaṉ oru pe:ṉa: va:nkina:ṉ. atai ra:maṉukku koTutta:ṉ
'He bought a pen and he gave it to Raman'

(4) Certain idiomatic experessions may have the objects unmarked for objective case.

11. T.a. avarkaL avaṉukku peN pa:rkkiRa:rkaL 'They are looking for a bride for him'
   b. avarkaL oru peNNai pa:rtta:rkaL 'They saw a woman'

The following situations are noticed in M.

(1) The animate nouns which function as the objects of transitive verbs will be overtly marked for objective case.

12. M. ña:ṉ oru peNNe kaNTu 'I saw a woman'

13. M. ña:ṉ na:ye aTiccu 'I beat the dog'

(2) The inanimate nouns which function as the odjects of transitive verbs will not be overtly marked for objective case.

14. M. avaṉ oru maram muRiccu 'He cut a tree'

15. M. avaṉ oru pa:TTu pa:Ti 'He sang a song'

(3) Certain idiomatic expressions may have the objects unmarked for objective case.

16. M. avaṉu ve:NTi oru peNNu kaNTu 'A bride has been found for him'

The objective case form realizes objective (6.T.; 14.M.), experiencer (7.T.; 13.M.) and result or factitive (9.T.b.; 15.M.) relations in T and M.

Dative case :

The dative case is signalled by the suffix *—ku* in T. In M the dative suffix has two allomorphs, *—ku* and *-u* (*—u* occurs after *ṉ* and *—ku* elsewhere). The dative case expresses experiencer, benefactive, possessive, genitive, allative, time, comparative, and purposive relations in T. A few differences can be noticed between T and M.

Experience : The subject of the verbs denoting feeling, sensation, perception, etc. is generally in dative form. In this respect T and M are similar to each other.

17. T. eṉakku vayaRu valikkiRatu 'I have stomach ache'
M. eṉikku vayaRu ve:taṉikkinnu 'I have stomach ache'

18. T. eṉakku pa:TTu ke:TkiRatu 'I am hearing a song'
M. eṉikku pa:TTu ke:Lkkunnu 'I am hearing a song'

Knowledge : T and M are similar.

19. T. eṉakku tamiz teriyum 'I know Tamil'
M. eṉikku tamizu aRiya:m 'I know Tamil'

Need : T and M are similar.

20. T. eṉakku taNNi:r ve:NTum 'I want water'
M. eṉikku veLLam ve:Nam 'I want water'

Benefaction : The so-called indirect objects of a group of verbs such as *koTu* 'give', *taru* 'give', etc. will be in dative form. T and M are similar in this aspect.

21. T. avaṉ eṉakku paNam tantaṉ 'He gave me money'
M. avaṉ eṉikku paNam tannu 'He gave me money'

22. T. eṉakku paNam kiTaittatu 'I got money'
M. eṉikku paNam kiTTi 'I got money'

Losing : T and M are similar.

23. T. eṉakku paNam kaLaintu viTTatu 'I lost money'
M. eṉikku paNam kaLañṉu po:yi 'I lost money'

Possesion : T and M are similar.

24. T. eṉakku oru makaṉ uNTu 'I have a son'
M. eṉikku oru mo:ṉ uNTu 'I have a son'

Genitive : In T dative *–ku* expresses genitive relation also; in M dative case suffix does not express genitive relation (see genitive case).

25 T. avaṉ eṉakku makaṉ 'He is my son'

Allative : Dative case suffix *–ku* denotes allative relation in T. M uses both the locative suffix *–il* and dative suffix *–ku* in this context; *–il* is preferably suffixed with consonant ending stems and *–ku* is suffixed with vowel ending stems; the use of *–il* after vowel ending stems is less frequent; *–ku* is not all used after consonant ending stems. The locative *–il* is not used to denote allative relation in T.

26. T. avaṉ puṉa:vukku vanta:n 'He came to Poona'
M. avaṉ pu:ṉaykku vannu 'He came to Poona'

27. T. avaṉ vi:TTukku vanta:ṉ 'He came home'
M. avaṉ vi:TTil vannu 'He came home'

In M the dative case suffix can be added after the locative case suffix *–il* to give a slightly different sense. Note the following examples :

28. M.a. avaṉ vi:TTil po:yi 'He went home'
b. avaṉ vi:TTile:kku po:yi 'He went home'

The first sentence (28.M.a.) means 'He went home and nowhere else'. The second sentence (28.M.b.) means 'He went home', but not necessarily means 'He went only home'.

Time : Dative *–ku* is suffixed with time elements like *ne:RRu* 'yesterday', *inRu* 'today', and *na:Lai* 'tomorrow' in T to express time relation. *–ku* is optional in written T, but in spoken T *–ku* is optional only with *ne:RRu*.

Also *–ku* is added to the hour of a clock (like one 0' clock) to express specific point of time in T. In M the dative case suffix is used to denote 'the hour of a clock' only. The time elements *innale* 'yesterday', *innu* 'today' and *na:Le* 'tomorrow' are not suffixed for dative in M.

29. T. avaṉ na:Laikku varuva:ṉ 'He will come tomorrow'
M. avaṉ na:Le varum 'He will come tomorrow'

30. T. avaṉ pattu maNikku vanta:ṉ 'He came at ten O' clock'
M. avaṉ pattu maNikku vannu 'He came at ten O' clock.

Comparison : The dative *–ku* in T denotes comparative relation also. The dative suffix in M cannot be used in this context. M uses the postposition *ka:L* after the accusative form), which is equivalent to *viTa* in T.

31. T.a. avaṉ avaLukku evvaLavo : koLLa:m 'Comparing with her, he is far better'
b. avaṉ avaLai viTa koLLa:m 'He is better than her'
M. avaṉ avaLe ka:L koLLa:m 'He is better than her'

Purpose-1 : When added to the neuter suffixed verbal nouns of verbs, *–ku* expresses purposive relation in T. Dative suffix in M cannot be used in this context. In M the suffix *–a:n* which is equivalent to *–a* in T is added to the verb stem to denote purpose.

32. T.a. na:ṉ avaLai ka:NpataRku vante : ṉ 'I came to see her'
b. na:ṉ avaLai ka:Na vante:ṉ 'I came to see her'
M. ña:ṉ avaLe ka:Na:ṉ vannu 'I came to see her'

Purpose-2 : The postpositions *ve:NTi* and *a:ka* added to dative form express a different purposive relation in T. In M only *ve:NTi* is used in this context. *ve:NTi* and *a:ka* can be added optionally to the dative form in sentence 32. T.a.; *ve:NTi* can be added optionally after *–a:n* in sentence 32.M.

33. T.a. na:ṉ avaLukku ve:NTi vante:ṉ 'I came for her'
b. na:ṉ avaLukka:ka vante:ṉ 'I came for her'
M. ña:ṉ avaLkku ve:NTi vannu 'I came for her'

Case suffixes and postpositions used in T and M:

Case	T	M
(1) Nominative	ϕ	ϕ
(2) Objective	-ai$\sim\phi$	-e$\sim\phi$
(3) Dative	-ku	-ku$\sim$-u
(4) Instrumental	-a:l; -ai$\sim\phi$ +koNTu/vaittu	-a:l; -e$\sim\phi$+ koNTu/veccu
(5) Genitive	-in; -ku; atu; uTaiya; -ku+ uriya; -ku+uLLa	-uTe$\sim$ -Re
(6) Locative (see under locative case)		
(7) Comitative	o:Tu; uTaŋ; -ku+ ku:Ta	-uTe$\sim$-Re / o:Tu +ku:Ta

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COLOPHON

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Instrumental case:

T uses the suffix *–a:l* and the postpositions *koNTu* and *vaittu* (>*vaccu*) (which are added to the accusative case form) to denote instrumental case. M also uses the suffix *–a:l* and the postpositions *koNTu* and veccu (which are added to the accusative case form) to denote instrumental case; the use of *–a:l* as instrumental case suffix is not very common; *koNTu* and *veccu* are generally used. The instrumental case suffix *–a:l* realizes the instrumental relation and agent relation (in passive sentence) in T, the postpositions *koNTu* and *vaittu* realize instrumental and instigated agent relation. In M *–a:l* expresses instrumental relation and agent relation (in passive sentence); the postpositions *koNTu* and *veccu* express instrumental and instigated agent relation.

34. T.a. avan kattiya:l pazattai veTTiṉa:ṉ 'He cut the fruit with a knife'
b. avan kattiyai koNTu/vaittu pazattai veTTiṟa:ṉ 'He cut the fruit with a knife'
M.a. avaṉ kattiya:l pazam veTTi 'He cut the fruit with a knife'
b. avan katti koNTu / veccu pazam veTTi 'He cut the fruit with a knife'

35. T. avaṉ avaLa:l kollappaTTa:ṉ 'He was killed by her'
M. avaṉ avaLa:l kollappeTTu 'He was killed by her'

36. T. avaṉ ra:taiyai koNTu / vaittu ra:maṉai koṉRa:ṉ 'He killed Raman through Radha'
M. avaṉ ra:daye koNTu / veccu ra:maṯe konnu 'He killed Raman through Radha'

Genitive case:

T uses the suffix *–iṉ* and the dative suffix *–ku* to denote genitive relation. The postpositions *atu, uTaiya, uriya,* and *uLLa* also denote genitive case in T; the postpositions *uriya* and *uLLa* are added to the dative form, whereas *atu* and *uTaiya* are added directly to express genitive case. The use of *–iṉ, atu, uTaiya,* and *uriya* are restricted to written language. *–ku* and *–ku + uLLa* are most commonly used in spoken language. But *–ku + uLLa* cannot be used to express kinship genitive relation. M uses *–uTe ~–Re* (*–Re* occurs after *ṉ* and *–uTe* elsewhere) as genitive case marker. In M genitive case marker is obligatory to denote genitive case relation, whereas in T it is optional after demonstrative pronouns and sometimes after human proper nouns.

37. T. a, ra:maṉin pe:ṟa: 'Raman's pen'
b. ra:maṉukku pe:ṟa: 'Raman's pen'
c. ra:maṉatu pe:ṉa: 'Raman's pen'
d. ra:maṉuTaiya pe:ṟa: 'Raman's pen'
e. ra:maṉukkuriya pe:ṉa 'the pen which belongs to Raman'
f. ra:maṉukkuLLa pe:ṉa: 'Raman's pen'
g. ra:maṉ pe:ṉa: 'Raman's pen'
M. ra:maṉRe pe:ṉa: 'Raman's pen'

Both in T and M genitive case is generally unmarked in compounds.

38. T. pasum pa:l 'cow's milk'
M. paśum pa:l 'cow's milk'

39. T. kai viral 'finger of the palm'
M. kay viral 'finger of the palm'

The interesting context in which dative *–ku* and genitive case marker are used in T, whereas in M only genitive case marker is used is as the following one.

40. T.a. avaṉukku kai muRintu viTTatu 'His hand is broken'
b. avaṉuTaiya kai muRintu viTTatu 'His hand is broken'
M. avaṉRe kai muRiññu po:yi 'His hand is broken'

If dative is used instead of genitive the experiencer relation will be specified and so the sentence 40.T.a. really means 'He suffered a fracture in his hand'.

It should also be noticed that a number of locative postpositions are added to the genitive or dative form in T and M. (see locative case).

Locative case:

T and M uses *–il* as locative suffix. The following chart will show the different kinds of locative casal relation in T and M.

Meanings conveyed by different Locative case makers	Locative case markers	
	T	M
1	2	3
1. In and at	-il	-il~-kal
2. Inside and into	-iṉ/-ku + uLLe:	-uTe~-Re / -ku~-ṉu + uLLil / akattu
3. Outside	-iṉ/-ku + veLiye:	-uTe~-Re / -ku~-ṉu + veLiyil / puRattu
4. Near	-in/-ku + pakkttil / arukil/kiTTe:	uTe~-Re / -ku~-ṉu + aTuttu/arukil
5. Upon and over	-iṉ/-ku + me:l	-uTe~-Re/-ku~-ṉu+ me:l / puRattu / mukaLil
6. Below and under	-iṉ / -ku + aTiyil / ki:ze:	-uTe~-Re / -ku~-ṉu + aTiyil / ta:ze:
7. Infront	-iṉ / -ku + muṉṉa:l	uTe~-Re / -ku~-ṉu + muṉṉil / muṉṉil

1	2	3
8. Behind	-in / -ku + pinna:	uTe∿-Re / -ku∿-nu + pinpil pinnil / piRakil
9. Between	in / -ku + iTaiyil	-uTe∿-Re / -ku∿-nu + iTayil / iTaykku
10. Opposite	in / -ku + etire:	-uTe∿-Re / ku∿-nu + etire:
11. Around	-ai + cuRRilum/ cuRRi	uTe∿-Re / ku∿-nu + cuRRum; -e+cuRRi
12. With	iTam	uTe∿-Re + aTuttu
13. Through	vaziya:ka	-il + ku:Te / u:Te
14. From	-il + iruntu	-il + ninnu
15. To	-ku	-il / -ku
16. Up to	varai	vare

In and at: The locative suffix *–il* is used with the meaning 'in, at, within, among' in T and M. It has several grammatical functions and in most of these contexts T and M behave identically.

41. T. avan vi:TTil irukkiRa:n 'He is in home'
    M. avan vi:TTil irikkinnu 'He is in home'

42. T. avan kuLattil kuLikkiRa:n 'He is bathing in a pond'
    M. avan kuLattil kuLikkinnu 'He is bathing in a pond'

43. T. avan pu:na:vil iRankina:n 'He got down at Poona'
    M. avan pu:rayil iRnni 'He got down at Poona'

44. T. avan avarkaLil iruntu avaLai terinteTutta:n 'He selected her from them'
    M. avan avaril ninnum avaLe teriñneTuttu 'He selected her from them'

45. T. avan avarkaLil nallavan 'He is the best among them'
    M. avan avaril nallavan 'He is the best among them'

46. T. avan uRakkattil pulampina:n 'He talked in the sleep'
    M. avan uRakkattil pulampi 'He talked in the sleep'

47. T. avan iravil vanta:n 'He came in the night'
    M. avan ra:ttiriyil vannu 'He came in the night'

48. T. avan va:rattil oru na:L kuLikkiRa:n 'He takes bath once (one day) in a week'
    M. avan a:zccayil oru divasam kuLikkinnu 'He takes bath once (one day) in a week'

In M a different locative suffix *–kal* is used in some contexts with the meaning 'at'. In Tamil *–il* or the post-positions for 'near' can be used in these contexts.

49. M. avan va:tilkkal nilkkunnu 'He is standing at the door way'
    T. avan va:salil niRkiRa:n 'He is standing at the door way'

Inside and into: The postposition *uLLe*: added to the dative form (and to the *-in* suffixed genitive form in written language) gives the meaning 'inside and into'.

50. T. avan vi:TTiRkuL irukkiRa:n 'He is inside the house'
    M. avan vi:TTinuLLil/vi:TTinakattu irikkinnu 'He is inside the house'

The postposition *uLLe*: in T and *uLLil* and *akam* in M give the meaning 'within' as in the following example.

51. T. avan oru va:rattiRkuLLe: anta ve:laiyai ti:rppa:n 'He will finish that work within one week'
    M. avan oru a:zccaykkuLLil a: jo:li ti:rkkum 'He will finish that work within one week'

In T *–il* can also be used instead of *–ku+uLLe*: in the sentence (51.T.); in M *-il* cannot be used in this context.

52. T. avan oru va:rattil anta ve:laiyai ti:rppa:n 'He will finish that work within one week'

In the following example, where *-ku+uLLe*: 'between' is used in T, in M *tammil* 'between' is used.

53. T. avarkaL ukkuLLe: eppo:tum po:TTi 'There is always competition between them'
    M. avartammil eppo:zum malsarama:Nu 'There is always competition between them'

Outside: The postposition *veLiye*: added to the dative form (and to the *-in* suffixed genitive form in written T) gives the meaning 'outside' in T. M uses the postpositions *veLiyil* and *puRattu* (added to the genitive or dative form) in this context.

54. T. avan vi:TTiRku veLiye: niRkiRa:n 'He is standing outside the house'
    M. avan vi:TTinu veLiyil/puRattu nilkkunnu 'He is standing outside the house'

Near: The postpositions *pakkattil*, *arukil*, and *kiTTe*: give the meaning 'near' in T. M uses the postpositions *aTuttu* and *arukil* in this context.

55. T. avaṉ avaLukku pakkattil/arukil/kiTTe: niRkiRa:ṉ 'He is standing near her'
M. avaṉ avaLuTe aTuttu/arukil nilkkunnu 'He is standing near her'

Upon and over : The postposition *me:l* added to the genitive form gives the meaning 'on' in T. M uses the postpositions *me:l* and *puRattu* in this context. The postposition *me:l* added to the dative form gives the meaning 'on' and 'over' in Tamil. M uses the postposition *mukaLil* in this context.

56. T. avan me:sai(yiṉ) me:l pe:ṉa: vaitta:ṉ 'He placed the pen on the table'
M. avan me:ṣa(yuTe) me:l peṉa: veccu 'He placed the pen on the table'

57. T. viLakku me:saikku me:l tonkukiRatu 'The lamp is hanging over the table'
M. veLakku me:ṣayuTe mukaLil tuṅṅunnu 'The lamp is hanging over the table'

Below and under : The postpositions *aTiyil* and *ki:ze:* are used in T to express the meaning 'below' and 'under'. M uses *aTiyil* and *ta:ze:* in this context The postpositions *aTiyil* and *ki:ze:/ta:ze:* give the same sense in some contexts, but differ from each other in some other contexts. This situation is comparable to the difference between below, under, and underneath in English.

58. T. avaṉ me:saikku aTiyil/ki:ze: oLitta:ṉ 'He hid under the table'
M. avaṉ me:ṣaykku aTiyil/ta:ze: oLiccu 'He hid under the table'

In the following contexts, where *aTiyil* is used in T and M, the postposition *ki:ze:* or *ta:ze:* cannot be used.

59. T. taNNi:rukku aTiyil karRkal kiTakkiṟaṉa 'The stones are lying under the water'
M. veLLattiṉu aTiyil kallukaL kiTakkunnu 'The stones are lying under the water'

60. T. avaṉ uTuppukku aTiyil baṉiyaṉ po:TTirukkiRa:ṉ 'He is wearing banian underneath his shirt'
M. avaṉ uTuppiṉu aTiyil baṉiyan iTTirikkinnu 'He is wearing banian underneath his shirt'

It can be interpreted that *aTiyil* is preferred when there is an intent ion to imply complete or nearly complete concealment.

In the following contexts, where *ki:ze:* and *ta:ze:* are used in T and M respectively, the postposition *aTiyil* cannot be used.

61. T. a:ka:yattiRku ki:ze: bu:mi irukkiRatu 'The earth is under the sky'
M. a:ka:ṣattiṉu ta:ze: bu:miya:Nu 'The earth is under the sky'

62. T. avaṉ ra:maṉukku ki:ze: ve:lai ceykiRa:ṉ 'He is working under the supervision of Raman'
M. avaṉ ra:maṉRe ta:ze: jo:li ceyyinnu 'He is working under the supervision of Raman'

Infront : In T the postposition *muṉṉa:l* added to the dative form gives the meaning 'infront of'. M uses the postposition *muṉpil* or *muṉṉil* in this context.

63. T. avaṉ vi:TTukku muṉṉa:l niRkiRa:ṉ 'He is standing infront of the house'
M. avaṉ vi:TTiṉu muṉpil nilkkunnu 'He is standing in front of the house'

In M the postposition *o:TTu* added after *muṉpil/muṉṉil* gives the directional sense. In T the directional sense is not marked by a postposition

64. M avaṉ muṉpilo:TTu/muṉṉo:TTu vannu 'He came farward'
T. avaṉ muṉṉa:l vanta:ṉ 'He came forward'

The same postpositions in T and M can express the time relation 'before'.

65. T. avaṉ eṉakku muṉṉa:l vanta:ṉ 'He came before (with reference to time) me'
M. avaṉ eṉikku muṉpil vannu 'He came before (with reference to time) me'

Behind: The postposition *piṉṉa:l* is used in T to express the meaning 'behind'. In M the postpositions *piṉpil*, *piṉṉil*, and *piRakil* are used to denote the meaning 'behind'. The same postpositions can express the time relation 'after'. Here also the postposition *o:TTu* gives the directional sense in M.

66. T. avaṉ vi:TTukku piṉṉa:l niRkiRa:ṉ 'He is standing behind the house'
M. avaṉ vi:TTiṉu piṉpil/piṉṉil/piRakil nilkkunnu 'He is standing behind the house'

67. T. avaṉ eṉakku piṉṉa:l vanta:ṉ 'He came after (with reference to time) me'
M. avaṉ eṉikku piṉpil/piṉṉil/piRakil vannu 'He came after (with reference to time) me'

68. M. avaṉ piṉpilo:TTu/piṉṉilo:TTu/piRakilo:TTu po:yi 'He went backward'
T. avaṉ piṉṉa:l po:ṉa:ṉ 'He went backward'

Between : In T the postposition *iTaiyil* expresses the meaning 'between'. M uses the postpositions *iTayil* and *iTaykku* in this context.

69. T. ra:maṉukkum kaNNaṉukkum iTaiyil ra:tai niRkira:L
'Radha is standing in between Raman and Kannan'

M. ra:maṉum kaNNaṉum iTayil /iTaykku ra:da nilkkunnu
'Radha is standing in between Raman and Kannan'

Opposite : T and M use the same postposition *etire:* to express the meaning 'opposite to'.

70. T. eṉ vi:TTiRku etire: oru kaTai irukkiRatu 'There is a shop opposite to my house'
M. eṉRe vi:TTiṉu etire: oru kaTayuNTu 'There is a shop opposite my house'

Around : The postpositions *cuRRilum* and *cuRRi* added to the accusative form express circumessive locative relation. In M to denote circumessive locative relation the postpositions *cuRRilum* and *cuRRum* are added to the genitive or dative form. The postposition *cuRRi* also is used in M, but it is added after the accusative form (as in T).

71. T. vi:TTai cuRRilum/cuRRi marankaL niRkiRatu 'There are trees around the house'
M.a. vi:TTiṉu cuRRilum/cuRRum maraṅṅaL nilkkunnu 'There are trees around the house'
b. vi:TTiṉe cuRRi maraṅṅaL nilkkunnu 'There are trees around the house'

With : The postposition *iTam* is used in T to specify the person with whom an object is kept. M uses *aTuttu* (added to the genitive form) in this context.

72. T. avaṉiTam pe:a: uNTu 'He has a pen'
M. avaṉRaTuttu peṉa uNTu 'He has pen'

When the verb which mean 'tell' or 'ask' is used in a sentence, the postposition *iTam* is used in T to specify the addressee. In M the postpositions *aTuttu* and *o:Tu* are used to express the addressee.

73. T. avaṉ avaLiTam oru irakasiyam coṉṉa:ṉ 'He told her a secret'
M. avaṉ avaLaTuttu /avaLo:Tu oru rehasyam paRaññu: 'He told her a secret'

Through : In T the postposition *vaziya:ka* is used to express the meaning 'through, along, via'. In M the postpositions *ku:Te* and *u:Te* added to the locative form give the meaning 'through, along, via'. The postposition *vazi* also is used in M to express the meaning 'via' and 'through'.

74. T. avan jaṉṉal vaziya:ka pa:rtta:ṉ 'He looked through the window'
avaṉ jeṉṉalil ku:Te/u:Te no:kki 'He looked through the window'
75. T. avaṉ ro:Tu vaziya:ka naTanta:ṉ 'He walked along the road'
M. avaṉ Ro:TTil ku:Te/u:Te naTannu 'He walked along the road'

76. T. avaṉ puṉa: vaziya:ka ba:mbe: poṟa:ṉ 'He went to Bombay via Poona'
M.a. avaṉ puṉayil ku:Te/u:Te ba:mbe:kku po:yi 'He went to Bombay via Poona'
b. avaṉ puṉa vazi ba:mbe: po:yi 'He went to Bombay via Poona'

77. T. avaṉ jaṉṉal vaziya:ka veLiye: vanta:ṉ 'He came out through the window'
M.a. avaṉ jeṉṉalil ku:Te/u:Te veLiyil vannu 'He came out through the window'
b. avaṉ jeṉṉal vazi veLiyil vannu 'He came out through the window'

From : The postposition *iṟuntu* added to *–il* suffixed locative form gives the meaning 'from' in T. M uses *ninnu* in the place of *iruntu*.

78. T. avaṉ ei:TTil iruntu vanta:ṉ 'He came from home'.
M. avaṉ vi:TTil ninnu vannu 'He came from home'

To : In T the dative *–ku* is used to express the allative casal relation. M uses *–il* and *–ku* in this context; *–il* is preferably added to the consonant ending stems and *–ku* to the vowel ending stems; *–il* is added after vowel ending stems with less frequency.

79. T. avaṉ vi:TTukku poṉa:ṉ 'He went home'
M. avaṉ vi:TTil po:yi 'He went home'
80. T. avaṉ puṉa:vukku vanta:ṉ 'He came to Poona'
M. avaṉ puṉaykku vannu 'He came to Poona'

Up to : In T *varai* is used to express the meaning 'up to'. M uses *vare* in this context.

81. T. avaṉ ba:mbe: varai poṉa:n 'He went up to the Bombay'
M. avaṉ ba:mbe vare po:yi 'He went up to the Bombay'

Comitative case :

T uses the postpositions *o:Tu*, *uTaṉ* and *ku:Ta* (added to dative base) to denote comitative case. The use of *o:Tu* and *uTaṉ* are restricted to written T. M uses the postposition *ku:Ta* which is added to the genitive or comitative base to express comitative case relation; with certain verbs *ku:Ta* does not follow the comitative form marked by *o:Tu*.

82. T.a. avaṉ avaLo:Tu/avaLuTaṉ poṉa:ṉ 'He went with her'
b. avaṉ avaLukku ku:Ta poṉa:ṉ 'He went with her'
M. avaṉ avaLuTe avaLo:Tu ku:Ta po:yi 'He went with her'
83. M. avan avaLo:Tu paRaññu 'He told her'